

Urban Waters Federal Partnership: Delaware River Location Monthly Workgroup Call
Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 from 11am-12pm on Zoom

1. Introductions (11:00-11:10) – Erica Rossetti (PDE), Kathy Klein (PDE), Haley Burns (PDE), Chris Anderson (PWD), Irene Purdy (EPA R2), Megan Mackey (EPA R3), Sarah Bouboulis (PDE), Flavia Rutkosky (FWS), Frank McLaughlin (NJ DEP), Kate Hutelmyer (PDE), Roberto Frugone (HUD), Sarah Beganskas (DRBC), Simeon Hahn (NOAA)
2. UWFP Delaware River Location Letter of Support Template (11:10-11:20)
 - Letter of support template has received edits – thank you! No additional comments.
 - Other regional UWFP coordinators are all aware of letter of support as well and will discuss expanding this to other locations.
 - Megan got caveat language approved by R3, emphasized importance of having it included. Irene sent language to R2 and should have it approved by the end of the week. Once we have the green light from R2 we can begin implementation!
 - Erica to post on website and notify community groups that PDE is working with. **Please feel free to let any groups you are working with know that our Urban Waters Ambassador can provide letters of support!**
3. Project Funding Needs (11:20-11:35)
 - Project “wish list”: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OTeSNWd1dMBkeeayz-2g5WMNyYHL1Hpx9YHWq2oYe_M/edit?usp=sharing
 - Projects in need of non-federal match:
 - i. CCMUA Living Shoreline Project
 1. Third largest treatment plant in NJ serving 3 counties and 37 municipalities
 2. A lot of untreated human waste goes into river systems in NJ from CSOs and now sea level rise / big coastal storms. Living shoreline would help protect the treatment plant and the downstream communities from flooding while also improving TSS, carbon sequestration, pollution.
 3. **Total capital cost is \$1-\$1.5million, which CCMUA is not able to undertake right now because they are obligated by EPA and DEP to focus on CSO overflow reductions. Project is already permitted and designed and is shovel ready!!**
 4. Once installed, they would maintain the living shoreline at an estimated cost of \$100,000 - \$250,000 per year.
 - ii. Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund
 1. RFP is out and proposal is due at the end of the month
 2. PDE is looking into applying for capacity building money for Urban Waters to fund community projects as well as a track at the Science Summit to form a cohort
 3. **Seeking to use *non-federal* partner time match as well as letters of support**
 - Other projects / project needs?
 - i. Civilian Climate Corps is being piloted by William Penn Foundation in 12 cities doing tree plantings, stream stabilizations/restorations, etc. Perhaps something

to get involved in and may need support. All 4 cities are part of it. Nate Boon would be the contact for this program – Erica to reach out to him about having a discussion with the group. Kathy and Kate shared the following links:

1. <https://williampennfoundation.org/blog/civilian-climate-corps-regional-model-delaware-basin>
2. <https://www.inquirer.com/science/climate/william-penn-foundation-20211203.html>
3. <https://corpsnetwork.org/press/the-corps-network-receives-funding-from-william-penn-foundation-to-help-launch-delaware-river-climate-corps/>

- ii. Irene brought up a potential connection between Urban Waters and AmeriCorps in the future. Something to consider/explore

4. Guidance for Accessing Funding through Urban Waters Delaware River Location (11:35-11:50)

- PDE has created a guidance document and a Google Form for community organizations to be able to access funding from the Urban Waters Delaware River Location from PDE. **Please send any edits to the guidance document or the Google Form to Erica at ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org by the end of the week.** We would like to start allocating this money as soon as possible as we have groups that are already interested.
- Suggestions:
 - i. Include links to EJSCREEN or other tools, and offer assistance to groups that don't know if they fall in an EJ area
 - ii. Perhaps give priority to grassroots or underfunded organizations. A question on the form does prioritize projects that work with students and/or directly with community members.

5. Other: news, upcoming events, opportunities, resources, needs, stories (11:50-12:00) – All

- Upcoming events:
 1. River Network: *River Rally* (June 4-7 in Washington DC) Registration open: <https://www.rivernetwork.org/connect-learn/river-rally/river-rally-registration/>
 2. Upcoming trainings on the *State Revolving Funds*: “The Fundamentals of SRF Administration & Influencing Equitable Infrastructure in Your Community” <https://www.rivernetwork.org/events/the-fundamentals-of-srf-administration-influencing-equitable-infrastructure-in-your-community/>
 - a. Influencing SRF implementation: March 29, 1-2:30pm
 - b. SRFs and Affordability: April 21, 1-2:30pm

6. Next Meeting Date Selection – Third Tuesdays of the Month from 11-12. (April 19, 2022)